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SUBJ: ELEVENTH SESSION MYONGDONG AFFAIR TRIAL

REF: SEOUL 5562

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT ELEVENTH MYONGDONG SESSION DEFENSE QUESTIONED DEFENDANT MUN IK-KWAN. DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION DISCUSSED POLICE INVESTIGATION REPORTS AND PROSECUTION SUMMARY AND CALLED FOR NEW WITNESSES FOR TWELFTH TRIAL SESSION WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 31. DEFENDANTS' WIVES AGAIN DID NOT COME TO COURT BUT PRAYED AT CHRISTIAN BUILDING. END SUMMARY.

1. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS QUESTIONED MUN IK-HWAN, DEFENDANT WHO AUTHORED MOST OF MARCH 1 DECLARATION. MUN DENIED THAT DECLARATION DISTORTED TRUTH IN ANY WAY AND STRONGLY DENOUNCED REPRESSIVE ACTIONS OF CURRENT REGIME.

2. DEFENSE ACCEPTED PROSECUTION SUMMARY OF PRE TRIAL INTERROGATION OF DEFENDANTS BUT OBJECTED TO PART OF SUMMARY DEALING WITH TESTIMONY OF FIVE OTHER PERSONS QUESTIONED BY POLICE. PROSECUTION ASKED THAT THESE FIVE BE CALLED AS WITNESSES AT TRIAL. JUDGE AGREED TO HEAR THREE OF THE FIVE.

3. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS PROPOSED THAT FIFTEEN ADDITIONAL WITNESSES BE CALLED. LIST INCLUDED SEVERAL NOTABLE PERSONALITIES OF KOREAN

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POLITICS, EX-OFFICIALS OF CURRENT AND PAST REGIMES, ACADEMICS,

CHURCHMEN, AND AN EX-JOURNALIST. AMONG THEM WERE KIM CHI-HA, POET CURRENTLY BEING TRIED FOR VIOLATION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW, HIS MOTHER CHONG CHUN-CHA, EX-PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL EX-FOREIGN MINISTER AND NOW SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT KIM TONG-CHO, CATHOLIC BISHOP CHI HAK-SUN, AND KIM KWAN-SUK, SEC GEN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. IN ADDITION, KIM TAE-CHUNG, A DEFENDANT, DEMANDED THAT JUDGE CALL PRESIDENT PARK AS WITNESS.

4. JUDGE AGREED TO HEAR TWO OF DEFENSE PROPOSED WITNESSES--CHO TONG-PIL, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT KOREA UNIVERSITY, AND CHU SOK-KYUN, EX-VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN REGIME OF SYNGMAN RHEE. JUDGE RULED COURT WOULD NOT CALL PRESIDENT PARK OR POET KIM CHI-HA. HE RESERVED JUDGMENT ON WHETHER TO CALL OTHER WITNESSES PROPOSED BY DEFENSE.

5. DEFENSE REQUESTED COURT TO EXAMINE THREE CASES IT CLAIMED WERE RELEVANT TO MYONGDONG TRIAL. THEY WERE TRIAL OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS OF MAY 22, 1975, KIM TAE-CHUNG'S TRIAL FOR VIOLATION OF ELECTION LAW, AND KIM CHI-HA'S TRIAL FOR VIOLATION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW. JUDGE AGREED TO REVIEW THESE CASES IN CAMERA WITH DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION ATTORNEYS ON JULY 29.

6. NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR JULY 31.

7. COMMENT: DEFENSE CONTINUES TO STRING TRIAL OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FOR PUBLICITY ADVANTAGES. SO FAR COURT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY MODERATE IN GRANTING DEFENSE REQUESTS. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND REACTION REMAIN AT LOW EBB.
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